



Antonio Galloni  
**vinous**

"Passionate, focused on terroir, willing to experiment, deep and open-minded, Stephan Asseo of L'Aventure continues to be a force to be reckoned with in Paso Robles. Asseo went on about each wine, discussing the passion that inspired him and how the processes have evolved over time. This is the first address to stop at for lovers of a more classical or almost Bordeaux style. One gets a sense of purity and prestige from every bottle, mixed with a dose of Paso Robles power. The 2020s here are flat-out stunning. If there was any smoke taint, I could not detect it. They are beautifully structured and concentrated wines, with perfectly integrated oak and racy acidity to balance."

- Stephan Asseo

## CÔTE À CÔTE 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **95**

The 2020 Côte à Côte is youthful and coy, displaying a subtle blend of dusty stone, lavender and wild blueberries. It's pure pleasure on the palate, velvety smooth yet full of energy, with crisp red and black fruits that cascade throughout. This finishes spicy, leaving a primary concentration and subtly grippy tannins that frame the experience without slowing its momentum. The 2020 is an understated beauty that will require some cellaring to blossom fully.

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **96**

The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve makes itself known with mentholated herb, dark floral, black currant and crushed rock aromas. It's silky and sleek in character, with mineral-tinged black fruits and mounting tannins that slowly saturate toward the close. This finishes with a classic structure, leaving a primary coating of concentration. Sour citrus notes add lovely contrast.

## ESTATE CUVÉE BLANC 2021

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **94**

The 2021 Estate Cuvée Blanc is dusty and floral, with raw almond and dried apricots forming its bouquet. This washes across the palate, with silky textures and ripe orchard fruits complicated by sour melon and salty minerality. The Estate Cuvée Blanc finishes spicy and long, leaving a citrusy concentration lingering. It's crisp, crunchy and hard to ignore.

## OPTIMUS 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **94**

The darkly floral 2020 Optimus impresses with a spicy blend of crushed black raspberries, dusty florals and olive tapenade. This is texturally thrilling and creamy in feel. Zesty acidity adds impressive energy, with depths of dark red fruits and savory spice that swirl throughout. It finishes incredibly long, communicating power and a classic tannic structure that frames the experience without slowing its momentum.

## ESTATE CUVÉE 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **97**

A beguiling blend of dusty violets, crushed stone, musky black currants and grilled herbs makes the 2020 Estate Cuvée impossible to ignore. Racy yet supple, this soothes with its ripe red and black fruits while also exciting the palate through a core of zesty acidity. A staining of minerality lingers as the 2020 finishes with epic length and potency. Grippy tannins tug at the perimeters of the palate, leaving nuances of black licorice and clove to resonate. This radiant beauty has a very bright future. It's a blend of 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot.

## INSPIRACIÓN 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **95**

A burst of black cherries, cedary spice and peppery florals lifts up from the 2020 Inspiración. This is seductive on the palate. A mineral-tinged acidity and tart, wild berry fruits complicate a balanced sweetness. A flourish of sweet spice, lavender and violet defines the finale, as the 2020 finishes with round tannins, tremendous length and balance. The Inspiración is a blend of 49% Grenache, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Syrah and 6% Grenache Blanc.

## LES DEMOISELLES 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023

RATING **94**

The 2020 Les Demoiselles, a blend of 90% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah, is distinctly savory in the glass, wafting up with a burst of black raspberry, crushed stone and spice. This is nearly creamy in feel, with polished red and black fruits accentuated by a Violette Pastille flourish toward the close. It finishes with fantastic freshness and length, leaving tarry wild berries elevated by residual acids and a subtle tug of fine tannin. This radiant beauty is completely harmonious.

## FOR HER 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023      RATING **95**

Mixing savory spices with sage and perfumed raspberry, the 2020 For Her comes to life in the glass. This is elegance personified, washing across the palate with silky textures and tart wild berry fruits perfectly lifted by a burst of zesty acidity. It finishes unexpectedly fresh and energetic, with rosy inner florals and building tannins that add a gentle grip. The 2020 is already showing beautifully today, yet the best is yet to come. For Her is a co-fermented blend of 58% Syrah, 28% Graciano and 14% Viognier.

## CHLOÉ 2020

TASTING DATE - MARCH 2023      RATING **95**

The 2020 Chloé is spicy to the core, wafting up with a burst of peppery black fruits, savory herbs and crushed ashen stone. This is elegant yet energetic in feel, with masses of tart blackberry and rum-soaked currants accentuated by rosemary and bitter cocoa nuances. This finishes structured and long, balancing grippy tannins with lively acidity that keeps the mouth watering as salted licorice hints fade. Chloé is a co-fermented blend of 68% Syrah, 25% Grenache and 7% Viognier.